

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /136 W
-----090675 050548Z /23

R 041453Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1903
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 7265

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECOSOC, UN, XF, PORG
SUBJECT: 63RD ECOSOC: GREEK VOTE ON PLO MEMBERSHIP IN ECWA

REF: STATE 175373

1. I CALLED ON MFA SECRETARY-GENERAL THEODOROPOULOS AUGUST 4 TO EXPRESS USG'S SURPRISE AND DISAPPOINTMENT THAT GREECE HAD VOTED FOR ADMITTANCE OF PLO TO FULL MEMBERSHIP IN ECWA. I REVIEWED THE HISTORY OF OUR CONSULTATIONS ON THIS ISSUE AND REMINDED THEODOROPOULOS THAT AS LATE AS THE DAY OF THE VOTE, JULY 22, WE HAD BEEN ASSURED BY MFA THAT GREEK DEL AT GENEVA HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ABSTAIN. OUR DISAPPOINTMENT, OF COURSE, STEMS FROM FACT THAT GREECE HAD VOTED IN A WAY WHICH COULD HELP TO DESTROY THE INTEGRITY OF THE UN SYSTEM AND MAY FURTHER COMPLICATE EFFORTS TO FIND AN ENDURING MID-EAST SOLUTION. OUR SURPRISE IS THAT THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A BREAK-DOWN IN THE OPEN CONSULTATIONS WHICH USUALLY TAKE PLACE BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS.

2. THEODOROPOULOS REPLIED WITH SOME EMBARRASSMENT THAT
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MFA ALSO WAS SURPRISED AND DISAPPOINTED AT GREEK DELEGATION'S VOTE. MFA HAD FULLY EXPECTED DELEGATION TO ABSTAIN AND HAD DIRECTED IT TO DO SO. INSTRUCTIONS, HOWEVER, HAD CONTAINED SOME LEEWAY FOR DELEGATION TO USE ITS DISCRETION IF THE SITUATION DEMANDED AND DELEGATION HAD INTERPRETED THESE INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTE FOR PLO ENTRY CONTRARY TO MFA'S DESIRES. THEODOROPOULOS CONCEDED THAT IT HAD BEEN A BAD PERFORMANCE BOTH PRO-

CEDURALLY AND ON GROUNDS OF PRINCIPLE BUT BELIEVES THERE IS
NOTHING THAT CAN BE DONE TO REMEDY THE SITUATION NOW.

3. COMMENT: ISRAELI MISSION HERE TOLD US THAT AMBASSADOR YAISH
HAD MADE SIMILAR DEMARCHE TO MFA UNDER-SECRETARY STAVROPOULOS.
STAVROPOULOS (WHO GIVES US THE IMPRESSION OF BEING ANTI-ISRAEL
AND WHO MAY NOT HAVE BEEN WELL INFORMED ON THE ISSUE) TOLD
YAISH THAT GOG HAD BEEN UNDER GREAT PRESSURE FROM THE ARABS AND
DID NOT FEEL IT COULD OFFEND THEM. WHATEVER THE ACTUAL REASON
FOR GREEK DEL'S VOTE, AND WE TEND TO BELIEVE IT WAS MORE THAN
SIMPLY AND INTRAMURAL MISUNDERSTANDING, GOG CAN BE EXPECTED TO
SEEK MAXIMUM RETURN FROM ARABS FOR ITS SUPPORT ON THIS ISSUE.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 04-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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